

are countless examples of Norva going beyond the requirements of her job, visiting patients on her own time to bring them home-made chicken soup or picking up medications at the pharmacy.

Norva provides professional and empathetic care to people of all ethnic, cultural, and financial backgrounds in a very ethnically diverse service area. Due to her extensive knowledge of area social programs, Norva regularly develops a safety net of services for patients ready for discharge.

Norva is a member of the Salvation Army, and she and her family have worked at the Salvation Army camps for many years. Norva is always an active volunteer with a shelter for homeless families, and has made it possible for the families to spend a week at the camp each summer.

Mr. Speaker, again, I congratulate Norva Maxwell who's strong clinical skills, compassionate spirit and interaction with the community make her a true Ambassador for her agency and for neighborhood nursing.

REV. EDWARD LISOWSKI CELEBRATES THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS 40TH YEAR OF ORDINATION

**HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 27, 2004*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the work of Father Edward Lisowski who is celebrating the 40th anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood of the Milwaukee Archdiocese. He was ordained by Archbishop William E. Cousins at St. John's Cathedral on May 30, 1964.

Over the years Father Lisowski has served in a variety of capacities including Pastor or Associate Pastor for 18 years. He has been a Chaplain for 22 years with the Department of Veterans Affairs, serving veterans at the Zablocki VA Medical Center and the North Chicago Veterans Administration Hospital.

Father Lisowski has devoted his life to serving parishioners and patients of all walks of life and has generously and compassionately offered his support and spiritual guidance. A gifted and talented speaker and educator he continues to offer his wisdom and comfort to all who are in need.

Born in Cudahy, WI, to Wallace and Victoria Lisowski in 1936 he received his first Sacraments at Holy Family Parish in Cudahy graduating from the grade school and later graduating from Don Bosco High School. He also completed a bachelor of arts in philosophy degree from De Sales University, which was followed by 4 years of study of Theology at St. Francis Seminary. Father Lisowski was also granted a master's degree from Marquette University in 1979. In addition to taking extensive and advanced training in Clinical Pastoral Education Father Lisowski has distinguished himself by serving on several prestigious professional boards and organizations.

I want to congratulate Father Lisowski on this his 40th anniversary of commitment to God and the Catholic Church and extend my best wishes to him on this important occasion.

TRIBUTE TO THE STATE OF ISRAEL ON THE 56TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INDEPENDENCE DAY

**HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 27, 2004*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to add my voice to the chorus of Members sharing their warm wishes, praise, and congratulations to the State of Israel on its 56th anniversary of its Independence Day. I too am deeply gratified and proud of the many accomplishments of this relatively young country and the ancient people who have brought it into being and sustained it against astonishing odds.

Last week, Members commemorated Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day; today, Yom HaAtzmaot, Israel Independence Day. Appropriately, we go from tragedy to celebration, but there is no question the two events and the two moods are inseparable. Without the singular tragedy of the Holocaust there might not have been a State of Israel created; with a State of Israel in existence, there might not have been a Holocaust. Bonded together are birth and death; bottomless despair and limitless hope.

Unquestionably, Israel has achieved more than anyone might have believed fifty-six years ago. The Jewish State has created and sustained the only true democracy in the entire Middle East. Faced with an unending series of defensive wars, stringent military service requirements and necessarily high defense spending, in the entire region, Israel is the only country which routinely lives with genuine respect for civil rights, rule of law, due process, and authentic elections that reflect the will of a free people. The only state in the Middle East with a culture that is Western and open, full of dissent and argument, pulsing with innovation in the arts and constantly open to change is Israel. In the sphere of economics, Israel has transformed itself into miniature powerhouse. Israel's economy is vibrant and dynamic, pushing the boundaries of technology and attracting venture capital at a remarkable rate. Israeli scientists, doctors and engineers routinely contribute to the body of human knowledge, and produce inventions that make all our lives safer, more convenient and more enjoyable.

Given the historic combination of its emphasis on education and technology, and the freedom enjoyed by the Israeli people, it is no surprise that Israel, with a population of only a few million, has a gross domestic product above \$100 billion and an industrial base greater than all its neighbors combined. Not surprising but still miraculous.

Even more amazing is that Israel has achieved all this while also fulfilling its mandate as the safe harbor and refuge of the Jewish People. To succeed as Israel has is remarkable; to do so while absorbing millions of Jewish refugees from post-War Europe, the Arab states, from Ethiopia, and from the former Soviet Union is unfathomable. Millions of Jews from around the world, including this country, have made aliyah, have "gone up" to the Land of Israel, and made it their home. The result is a country which is an incredible mosaic, a new country formed in a timeless land by an ancient people.

And, as we all know, the Israel Defense Forces have made their reputation on the field of battle as one of the premier military organizations in human history. Unfortunately, tragically, they have been compelled to do so by circumstances not of their choosing. Israel has been under attack and at war for every single day of its existence. This painful fact is not now, and never has been, a result of the choices of Israel's government which has always sought peace and been desperate to make peace.

Mr. Speaker, no other country in the entire world is forced to endure a state of constant siege. No other country in the world regularly endures calls by other states for its extirpation. No other country in the world suffers the indignity of having terrorists committed to its destruction routinely described merely as "militants," or praised as "martyrs." No other country in the world is so unfairly isolated and routinely singled out for criticism and contempt.

Since President Harry Truman decided to ignore his advisors and chose to support the creation of Israel, the United States has been a true friend and ally to the Jewish State. Our values, our heritage, and our interests guide our special relationship, and it is no surprise our ties have only gotten stronger. In a time when both countries have been compelled to fight back against terrorism, there is no question we will only go from strength to strength.

Mr. Speaker, I am enormously proud of the ties between our nation and the State of Israel, and equally so, the support this House has shown again and again, without fail. On this occasion celebrating the 56th anniversary of Israel's Independence Day, I know the whole House joins me in extending to the Israeli people and their government the most enthusiastic of congratulations and best wishes for the many, many years of freedom and prosperity that are certain to come.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LAKE CHARLES NATIVE JEFFREY PARKER

**HON. CHRISTOPHER JOHN**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 27, 2004*

Mr. JOHN. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, April 9, 2004, my district suffered the loss of a brave American. KBR Contractor Jeffrey Parker of Moss Bluff, LA, was killed in an attack on a fuel convoy while working as a truck driver in Iraq. Jeff was one of seven contractors and two U.S. soldiers reported missing in the attack.

As he is laid to rest in Louisiana, we honor his commitment to his family, his work, and his country. As his company noted, these contractors that lost their lives were "brave hearts without medals, humanitarians without parades, and heroes without statues."

Neighbors described him as a "friend to everyone." Jeff was one of nine children in the Parker family. He was a father and a grandfather. He was to be married this summer after his work in Iraq was completed.

He took the job with KBR in Iraq to provide for his loved ones. He served his country in a vital support role and he tackled his job with courage, conviction, and bravery. He will be remembered as a hero whose spirit and determination defines the American spirit.